

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
COMBINED RURAL AND THE URBAN
SANITARY AUTHORITIES
OF THE
CITY AND COUNTY OF HEREFORD,
1884.

By H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD M.D., &c.

HEREFORD :
PRINTED AT THE "HEREFORD TIMES" OFFICES,



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TO THE URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY OF THE
CITY OF HEREFORD AND THE COMBINED
RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES OF THE
SAME COUNTY.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH.

(Pursuant to the Regulations of the Local Government Board).

THE URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY OF THE CITY
OF HEREFORD.

Population (Census 1881) 19,822.

Area in acres, 2,417.

Houses, 4,000.

Aggregate number of people to a house, 5.

Parishes, 6.

December 31, 1884.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

Taking as a guide the order, dated March, 1880, issued by the Local Government Board, and by the 18th article, section 14 of that order, it is prescribed that the Medical Officer of Health shall "prepare an annual report, to be made to the end of December in each year," &c., &c.. I have the honour now to place before you my eleventh report made in compliance with the above-quoted order.

I shall adhere to the plan I have hitherto adopted in these annual reports, and therefore commence with the usual formal record of the births and deaths occurring in the city for the past twelve months.

During the year 1884 the number of deaths registered for the whole of the city was 365, this is inclusive of the 31 in the Infirmary and 37 in the Workhouse, and, calculated on a population of 19,954, gives a rate of mortality of 18·3 per 1,000, but deducting the 68 in the Infirmary and Workhouse the rate is less than 14·9 per 1,000.

The Births numbered 478, giving a birth-rate of 23· per 1,000.

With reference to sex, 249 were males, and 229 females.

Of these 478 Births, 33 were illegitimate.

The following table epitomises the ages at which the Deaths occurred throughout the city :—

*Deaths in the City, including Infirmary and Workhouse,
from January 1st to December 31st, 1884,*

Deaths under 1 year of age	78	} 100 under 5 years.
„ over 1 „ and under 5 years			22	
„ „ 5 „ „ 15 „			12	} 265 over 5 years.
„ „ 15 „ „ 25 „			10	
„ „ 25 „ „ 60 „			129	
„ „ 60 „ up			114	

Total of all ages, 365

The grouping into various ages in the above table is in accordance with the ages fixed in the tables furnished by the Local Government Board, which are duly filled in and accompany this report, and taken as a standard the annexed table, published by the eminent hygienist, Dr. Richardson, in his report upon the death rates of Urban districts in the United Kingdom, it will be seen that the city of Hereford maintains an excellent position in the accompanying groups, the rate being fourteen only, or under group 2. Dr. Richardson's remarks hereon are as follows :—

“ At the present moment there are varying death-rates in English towns from the model low to the unnatural or excessively high. These may be divided into groups as follows :—

Group 1.	Death-rate from 8 to 12 in the 1,000
„ 2.	„ „ 12 to 16 „ „
„ 3.	„ „ 16 to 20 „ „
„ 4.	„ „ 20 to 24 „ „
„ 5.	„ „ 24 to 28 „ „
„ 6.	„ „ 28 to 32 „ „

There are very few towns as yet which have attained to the perfection shown in the first of these groups, perhaps none that through a series of years have attained to it. A few towns especially favoured in respect to population, situation, and wealth have attained to the position of the second group.

Table showing the number of Deaths in each year for the last ten years ending 1884 from the eight chief zymotic diseases,

including those in Workhouse, Infirmary, and the whole of the City:—

The Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases in	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
Smallpox - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles - - -	1	12	6	8	5	1	—	29	1	—
Scarlet Fever - -	7	75	11	4	—	5	13	12	9	1
Diphtheria - - -	1	—	—	4	4	1	2	—	3	1
Whooping Cough -	3	12	2	7	27	1	—	9	—	1
Typhus Fever - -	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Typhoid and Continued Fevers - - -	3	2	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	2
Diarrhœa and Dysentery - - -	8	9	5	15	5	28	4	6	8	14
	25	110	24	38	43	36	21	56	21	19

Table showing Total Number of Deaths from all causes for the ten years ending December 31, 1884, in the City of Hereford, including those in the Infirmary and Workhouse:—

1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
401	447	342	335	456	352	307	368	386	365

Rate per 1,000 - 21.8 28.8 18.0 17.6 23.8 18.3 16.4 18.2 19.4 18.3

From this Table I would draw your attention to the following table of deaths of infants and those under five years of age,

Table showing the number of Deaths of Infants and those under five years from all causes, for the ten years ending Dec. 31, 1884, in the City of Hereford, including those in Infirmary and Workhouse

1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
119	160	85	100	158	141	98	133	89	100

Rate per 1000..... 6.0 8.3 4.1 5.0 8.0 7.0 4.7 6.4 4.0 5.0

Table showing Number of Births for the last ten years ending Dec. 31, 1884, in the City of Hereford, including those in the Workhouse

1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
400	446	386	480	555	553	532	500	500	478

I beg to submit with this Report the tables furnished by the Local Government Board. The first, or Table A, deals entirely with the mortality of the district, divided into localities and showing the deaths in detail for each separate disease classed over and under five years. Table B deals only with cases of sickness. For table A I can claim ac-

curacy, but for Table B I fear the results are less reliable, due to difficulties in the way of obtaining exact information.

On analysing these tables of sickness and deaths and the cause thereof I will take the first—

MEASLES, from which no death is recorded.

SCARLET FEVER is next to be taken into consideration. Only one death is recorded.

DIPHTHERIA is assigned to have caused one death to a boy getting very hot, and lying down on a badly drained marsh, and sleeping, and so contracting the disease.

CROUP has caused one death this year.

TYPHOID FEVER caused two deaths. One case imported into the Infirmary from a distance, the other from defective drainage, allowing the sewage to soak into the basement of the house where the woman resided.

DIARRHŒA and DYSENTERY caused fourteen deaths, eleven under five years of age, and three above to very old people.

ERYSIPELAS caused one death in the Infirmary.

PUERPERAL FEVER is assigned as causing two deaths after parturition; no local defects were found about the premises.

PHTHISIS has proved fatal this year, having carried off no less than 29 lives, whose ages were mainly between 15 and 25, having an hereditary tendency traced to many.

BRONCHITIS, PNEUMONIA, AND PLEURISY are the cause of 61 deaths only, against 69 for previous years.

HEART DISEASE killed 40 this year, against 35 last year.

INJURIES proved fatal to 12, 1 being under 5 years of age.

OTHER DISEASES caused 200 deaths, thus showing a considerable decrease against last year's return.

Referring to Table B of the Local Government Board's order, it will be seen that on such Table SCARLATINA is still among us, although in a mild form, and so long it will remain until an order is made for compulsory notification of infectious disease.

ENTERIC or TYPHOID FEVER also shows four cases on Table B. Already two have been accounted for in Table A, the remaining two were both imported, one from Gloucester, the other from the country.

DIARRHŒA and DYSENTERY point to 43 cases, the bulk being amongst private patients, nearly all emanating from errors in dietary, and the excessive heat of last summer.

TABLE A.

TABLE of DEATHS during the year 1884, in the Three Divisions of the City of Hereford, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities, and showing also the Population of such Localities, and the Births therein during the year.

[illegible]

TABLE B.

TABLE OF NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1884, in the Three Divisions of the Urban Sanitary District of the City of Hereford; classified according to Localities and Diseases.

NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, IN PERSONS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT, DISTINGUISHING THOSE IN CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.	
NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	12
1	13
	14
	15
	16
	17
	18
	19
	20
	21
	22
	23
	24
	25
	26
	27
	28
	Ague.
	Puerperal
	Fever.
	Pyæmia.
	Erysipelas.
	Rheumatic
	Fever.
	Cholera.
	Diarrhoea
	and
	Dysentery.
	Continued Fevers.
	Typhus.
	Enteric
	or
	Typhoid.
	Other
	or
	Doubtful.
	Other Diseases such
	as Chicken Pox, or
	Pneumonia, which
	the Medical Officer
	tabulates well to
	record.
City of Hereford.	
Out-paupers	... under 5
	5 upds.
Workhouse Infirmary	under 5
	5 upds.
Infirmary	... under 5
(To January, 1884.	5 upds.
Private Practice	... under 5
	5 upds.
Totals	... under 5
	5 upds.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

The figures of the columns following column 12 will have been derived from the returns of the Poor Law Medical Officers, from the practice of public institutions in or near the Sanitary District, and from other medical practices.

The Officer of Health, making this report is desired to state below the number of persons belonging to this division or district, who have during the year newly come under treatment for ALL KINDS of disease and injury, and of whose cases he has had information.

60 in Workhouse and Workhouse Infirmary.
290 among Out-door Paupers.
477 as In-patients of Infirmary.
(To January, 1884.)
2892 as Out-patients ditto.
(To January, 1884.)
4609 as Out-patients of Hereford Dispensary.
(For 12 months ending July, 1884.)
201 in Other Practice.*

* This refers to cases of sickness not included in the previous classes, if the Medical Officer of Health has information of such cases from other sources.

ERYSIPELAS shows five cases, one already mentioned in Table A, and two more in the Infirmary, and two to paupers, these of a mild type.

PYÆMIA showed in a case at the Infirmary.

PUERPERAL FEVER followed two labours, both patients dying as reported in Table A. I can trace no infection from one case to the other, neither by the medical attendant or nurse, nor was there any insanitation about the premises.

Thus end the cases to be mentioned on Table B.

Before finishing my remarks upon sickness and deaths within your city, allow me again to urge upon your Town Council the absolute necessity of your providing some place to convert (even temporarily) into an hospital for infectious diseases. Bear in mind, I have no wish to put the ratepayers to one penny more expense than is absolutely necessary in carrying out my duties under the Public Health Act, and when I tell you that I am actuated by fear of infectious disease spreading (having been privately informed, upon correct information, and which I have personally visited and can vouch for, that SMALLPOX is now this 11th day of January, 1885, within our city), this alone ought to be sufficient for you to give ear to my appeal, and without further remark or delay, adopt and convert some temporary place to receive cases of this dangerous nature; you have ample power vested in you, under the Memoranda of the Local Government Board dated December, 1876, to do so. Pray give me even what they recommend "for a village;" it will be better than none, and may be the means of arresting and stamping out this loathsome disease now imported amongst us. Leaving this grave responsibility with you, I have only to call your attention to the necessity of your having better supervision over diseased animals being slaughtered and "dressed for the food of man," and brought into our City for sale. In my report for 25th March, had it not been for the police this carcase would in all probability have found its way into some convenient shop, and so have been sold. Again in my quarterly report for September, it was through the assistance of the City and County Police that another carcase (although in pieces) was reclaimed and destroyed, and well they succeeded. Had they failed, in all human probability serious illness would have been the result, after the parties partaking of the meat; of course, these two carcasses being allowed to go out of the hands of the Inspector of Nuisances, legal proceedings against the offending parties selling such meat could not with any certainty be instituted.

I would also observe that different lots of fish have been condemned and destroyed—in one instance through the Market

Constable's attention. A penalty was enforced for so exposing such fish, the party so doing well knowing the same to be in a putrid state.

Legal proceedings were also instituted for infringing against your Bye Laws by keepingswine contrary to such.

Under the Food and Drdgs Adulteration Act, about 50 samples have been examined, none needing further proceedings.

Herewith are attached my four Quarterly Reports showing the routine of work for the year :—

HEREFORD URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Hereford, March 31st, 1884.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

My report for to-day gives a rather larger rate of mortality for the first quarter of 1884, being 112 from all causes and all ages. Of this total 27 are infants and those under five years of age. The causes of such deaths are registered as 1 from typhoid fever, 2 from infantile diarrhœa, 1 from puerperal or childbed fever, 9 from phthisis, 23 from bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy, 16 from heart disease, 7 from accidents and injuries, and 52 from other diseases of a non-zymotic type.

The only death to make special mention of is the one emanating from typhoid fever, which occurred at a cottage at Gallows Tumps, Blackmarstone, to a platelayer's wife, aged 61, terminating after only 7 days' illness, the cause being unquestionably from the stoppage of a soil pipe from the w.c. attached to the cottage, such pipe bursting and allowing the soil therein to percolate under the basement of the cottage, and consequently saturating the walls of the living room or parlour to the height of three feet on the wall paper thereon.

I am assured by the relatives of the poor woman that an urgent appeal was made to the landlord on last Christmas Day to rectify this sad state of things, but nothing was done until a few days before the woman's death, which took place 26th January, 1884, and only then, when a policeman going his rounds about there found a horrible smell coming from the soaking into the road, and so informed the Inspector of Nuisances, who promptly served the landlord with notice to abate such nuisance forthwith, which was done about the 18th January of this year, but too late, as the poison was contracted on or about that day.

There is an excess of deaths from pulmonary disease this quarter, but a decrease of phthisis pulmonalis (or consumption) than for many winter quarters before.

The prevailing illness originates from heart disease, a few cases of mild scarlet fever, and pulmonary affections.

Of general subjects to lay before you I would first mention that I have condemned a house situated in Commercial-street, within your city, as unfit for human habitation, in consequence of the w.c. being placed under the stairs on the first floor and in the centre of the house, there being no ventilation thereto from any source whatever, and when I visited these premises there was no water or any means of flushing, all being blocked or broken, and the stench therefrom fearfully dangerous. By request of the Coroner these premises were visited by me. I found one child dead, another ill, and the mother ill also, the cause of death being certified by two medical gentlemen "as from convulsions, but death having been accelerated by the frightfully insanitary condition of the house," the same state of things having existed at the time of the death of another child some weeks before. On the 26th September, 1878, an urgent appeal was made to the owner of the premises, to remedy this state of insanitation, but to no effect. I now, therefore, call upon you to prohibit the house being occupied until the necessary sanitary requirements are carried out.

I would further inform you that I have been compelled to order the destruction of the carcase of a small bullock which was dressed and prepared for the food of man, the same being diseased and unfit for such food.

The water supplied by the Works continues to maintain its character for purity and excellence.

The Food and Drugs Adulteration Act is continually being carried out, seventeen samples of such food, &c., having been examined and found passable.

The house to house survey is being carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances with good results and benefit to the public.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD,

M.D., L.R.C.P., Surgeon, &c.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Annexed to this report is the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the quarter ending the 30th June last, which is of a satisfactory character.

Your committee report that the necessary sanitary precautions as to cleansing the drains and gullies in the city have already been and are continued to be taken, as recommended by the Medical Officer of Health.

THOMAS CAM, Chairman.

HEREFORD URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Hereford, June 30th, 1884.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have to report to you that the number of deaths within the city for the quarter ending to-day amount to 98 from all causes at all ages, against 112 for the quarter ending March 31st. This total (98) includes 21 amongst infants and those under five years of age; from this 98 I would mention that 11 occurred at the Infirmary and 12 in your Workhouse, thereby reducing the deaths amongst the 20,000 population of your city to 75, or not quite 14 per 1,000 upon your population proper for the year.

The only death bearing upon zymotic disease to be mentioned is one returned to me as from typhoid fever at your Infirmary. From inquiry I find this case to have been imported from Cardiff to Allensmore, and from thence to the Infirmary, such case terminating fatally from hæmorrhage, &c., &c., and in no way attributable to insanitation at this excellent institution.

The prevailing illness for this quarter to mention is comprised in three cases of gastric and two of scarlet fever (of a very mild type), and all recovered, every sort of precaution having been adopted in the way of disinfection to the scarlet fever cases.

Before leaving the question of illness and the cause thereof I would advise you to institute special precautions for keeping your city in the sanitary condition it now is in by issuing orders that every public drain and gully be flushed with carbolic acid and water every morning for the next six or eight weeks to come; also that all dustbins and accumulations of offal or filth of any kind be emptied and done away with twice a week instead of once, that after such emptying the same dust-bins and places be sprinkled with carbolic powder, and that all vegetable offal be burnt daily, that any cesspool existing in your city be deodorised by having carbolic acid thrown down twice a week, in fact anything that vitiates the purity of air to be immediately removed or done away with; and, as further precautions against cholera and diarrhoea, I would call your atten-

tion to the sanitary hints thereon printed in my report to your Town Council for June 30th, 1883, as also the instructions issued by the Local Government Board thereon in June of the same year. All these precautions ought to be observed by everyone, rich and poor, if we wish to keep our city in the condition it now is in.

The same precautions as I gave last year I now again call the public attention to, touching upon the eating of tainted meat, fish, poultry, or rotten fruit; nothing will cause diarrhœa sooner if partaken of, and care must be observed in drinking water, if only suspected of not being quite pure, in wells adjoining cesspools. My advice is to boil all well waters before partaking of them.

Of general subjects, the first is to mention the purity of the water supplied by the Water Works to the city; by analysis such purity and excellence is proved as follow:—Total solids, 7·0 grains per gallon; organic matter oxydisable, no trace; hardness, 8° degrees; albuminoid ammonia, a trace; colour, good, and free from smell or taste.—July 7, 1884.

From water I will return to food. Nineteen samples have been examined; in neither case can I find anything to complain of, although much has been said about the excessive adulteration going on of late.

The house to house sanitary survey is being carried out by your Inspector of Nuisances with good results.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD,

M.D., L.R.C.P., Lond., Surgeon, &c.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY COMMITTEE.

Annexed hereto is the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the quarter ended the 29th day of September last.

It will be seen that this Report is of a very satisfactory character, and that the health of the city continues excellent.

THOMAS CAM. Chairman,

HEREFORD URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Hereford, September 29th, 1884.

Mr. Mayor and Gentleman,—I am pleased to report to you that your rate of mortality for the quarter ending to-day does not amount to 13 per 1,000 from all causes and all ages (including the eleven deaths in your Union Workhouse, and six in the Infirmary), and more satisfactory it is for me to report that, with the exception of one infantile death from scarlet fever, one from whooping cough, seven from diarrhoea (six of which were infants under one year old, attended with teething and convulsions), I have no other case of a zymotic type to record, a fact which I am in possession of, and able to state, that no other town, with a population of close upon 20,000, in the United Kingdom can show so clean a bill of health.

The prevailing illness this quarter also is, with one exception, comprised in summer diarrhoea, pulmonary disease, and three cases of mild scarlet fever (as far as I have been able to ascertain), the exceptional case alluded to being an imported case of typhoid fever from Gloucestershire, and in no way attributable to insanitation in the house where the case was brought. This low rate of mortality, coupled with immunity of disease this quarter, I candidly assert is owing to your Sanitary Committee adopting my advice, and going to the expense of deodorising all sewers, drains, and places where dangerous gases generated. My thanks, and those of your citizens, are due to the worshipful the Mayor for temporarily placing at my disposal the members of your police force to act as inspectors of nuisances on their respective beats, night and day, they having proved of great service during the excessive heat for the last three months, in giving notice of nuisances and other dangerous matters existing.

Of general subjects to call your attention to is the continued purity of the water supplied by the Waterworks to the city, and although considerable drought, and great inconvenience has been experienced in the county therefrom, yet the city supply has never been deficient, nor have I had a complaint of the water's quality or quantity from a single ratepayer.

The analysis of such water made September 28th, 1884, shows:—

Total solids, 7.30 grains per gallon.

Oxydisable organic matter, 0.8 per gallon.

Hardness, 6.90 degrees.

Albuminoid ammonia, a trace only, colour bright, and free from smell or taste.

Having brought to your notice the purity of air and water, and the sanitary precautions adopted by your Committee to keep the same in such condition, I would mention a few facts bearing upon the third angle of the tripod of the means of obtaining health: that of wholesome food. It has been necessary to keep a sharp look out in all quarters of your city for tainted meat, fish, and fruit, and where found the same has been destroyed by my orders. In one instance I found it necessary to cause a summons to be issued for exposing a barrel of herrings for sale, resulting in a fine, the party well knowing that such fish were in a state of decomposition when purchased from a Railway Company, who had failed to deliver such barrel of herrings to whom they were consigned in a state fit for sale. I think such an occurrence will admit of my informing the parties concerned herein that for the future (should it happen again) I shall apply for a penalty for every fish in such barrel, or perhaps imprisonment, there being no excuse that the parties did not know they were decomposing fish, and highly dangerous to those partaking of them as food.

I have further to inform you that a well fed pig, but diseased, was brought into market for sale on Wednesday, August 6th, but had to be killed the same night about eleven o'clock, the same being taken to a public-house in Blackmarstone, where it was "dressed for the food of man," many offers being made by small butchers to purchase such at a very low figure (but none being accepted) the carcase soon became putrid, and on Saturday, the 9th, Police-constable Davies's attention was called to the horrible state of the pig, and about four o'clock sent to your Inspector of Nuisances to seize such. Bridgewater came to do so, but failed to carry out the Act, by obtaining the order from a Justice of the Peace to seize the same (although one was residing within six doors of the public-house where the pig was), and what was worse did not even place such carcase in any responsible person's charge, and the result was that the animal was cut up and sold to poor people going home from market to the country (for a very low price), by some person or persons. Knowing the poisonous character of the flesh of this pig, I at once obtained the assistance of Chief Constable Richardson and Superintendent Cope, of the County Constabulary, who, I am thankful to say, after working Saturday night and Sunday up to twelve o'clock at night, succeeded in seizing all the pieces of the pig with the exception of one small joint, bringing the same home and having it condemned and buried; of course this entailed some expense, which I now lay before you bills for, they having to go to Madley, Bacton, and other places in the Dore Union

District, where the pieces of diseased pig were carried—one piece also being found in Hereford.

I have only further to report that the house to house sanitary survey is being carried out to my satisfaction, and with good results.

The Food and Drugs Adulteration Act has been carried out, many samples of same having been given to me for analysis, none of which needed further measures, all being passable.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD.

M.D., L.R.C.P., Lond., Surgeon.

HEREFORD URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Hereford, December 31st, 1884.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,—

My report for the quarter ending to-day is comprised in stating a single case of Diphtheria to a boy, the cause being getting hot at cricket and then lying down on a marshy ground. The remaining deaths for this quarter consist of pulmonary, heart, and natural causes, amounting to 68 for your city, 9 in the Workhouse, and 7 in the Infirmary, making a total of 82 only from all causes and at all ages. The prevailing sickness emanates from pulmonary disease chiefly this quarter. Of general subjects I have only to mention that the water supplied to the City from the Works continues to maintain its usual standard of purity, and shows no variation from September's analysis. The obtaining of samples of food, drugs, and drinks, and submitting them to examination for analysis, has been carried out. The remark at your last Sanitary Committee Meeting that "Butterine," was being sold by many within your city, is true, but such being sold as "Butterine" and not *Butter* no further steps need be taken thereon. Being in a position shortly to lay before you my eleventh annual report, I will conclude.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD,

M.D., L.R.C.P., Lond., Surgeon, &c.

The Hawthorns, January 1st, 1885.

It only remains for me to attach the Inspector of Nuisances' Report of work done by him for the year 1884.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD,

M.D., L.R.C.P., Lond. Surgeon, &c.

The Hawthorns, January 16, 1885.

January 12, 1885.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND
SANITARY COMMITTEE OF THE HEREFORD
URBAN AUTHORITY.

GENTLEMEN,

In bringing before you my Eighth Annual Report for the year ending the 25th day of December, 1884, I have to inform you that the nuisances that I have detected either by house-to-house survey, casual inspection, or by private information, have numbered during the year 366, and from causes as follows:—

From Water-closets, Privies, and Drains	...	177
.. Pigs, Pig's-wash, and Offal	...	56
.. Dung and Ashes	...	84
.. Sundry other causes	...	49

Making a total of ... 366

I find that nuisances from stoppages in water-closets and drains continue to increase, as I consider, from very many of the old fittings of water services being worn out, and become almost useless for flushing purposes. At the same time, I must state that many flush cisterns have been fixed to great advantage during the year, and where fixed I seldom find a stoppage.

My casual district inspection has been regularly attended to, as you will see by my Journal, and where nuisances have occurred I have had (with one or two exceptions) very satisfactory assistance from owners, or their agents, in abating them.

During the year my fifth house-to-house inspection has been carried on, and nearly two-thirds of the city has been completed, the result of which has been most satisfactory.

The bakehouses, to the number of forty-nine, together with the private slaughter-houses and common lodging-houses,

have had my attention, all of which have been lime-washed twice during the year, by notice, as required by their special Acts and Bye-laws.

The Dairies and Cow-sheds Order of Council have been carried out as I am instructed, and I report them—to the number of thirty-three—to be clean and satisfactory.

The public Food and Provision Market has been regularly attended to, and I have had no cause of complaint that requires my reporting.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

B. B. BRIDGWATER,

Inspector of Nuisances.

THE HEREFORD RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Population (Census, 1881), 17,482.

Parishes, 42.

Area in Acres, 70,974.

December 31st, 1884.

GENTLEMEN,—Keeping in view the order of the Local Government Board, dated March, 1880, and by direction of Article 18, Section 14, I now present you with my Annual Report, made the end of this year, wherein is set out a summary of all matters comprised in such order; but before going into it I am of opinion that it would be more conducive to adhere to my plan in former reports to state that the total number of births amount to 435 this year throughout your 42 parishes.

The deaths in such parishes are 252, showing a decrease of 66 deaths this year.

Table showing the number of deaths in each year for the last ten years ending December 31st, 1884, from the eight chief zymotic diseases:—

The Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases in	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	6	1	3	—	—	—	19	5	—
Scarlet Fever	7	45	11	1	2	—	2	18	13	2
Diphtheria	1	—	3	1	4	4	2	3	2	—
Whooping Cough	3	12	—	—	7	—	—	6	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Typhoid and Continued Fevers	6	3	2	2	1	4	—	1	1	1
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	8	13	2	7	3	10	2	1	8	11
	26	79	19	14	17	18	6	48	29	14

By deducting the 16 deaths that took place in the County Asylum as not being the population proper of your Union District, it will leave a total of 236 deaths, giving a rate of 13·3 per 1,000 as under—

Table showing total number of Deaths from all causes in the ten years ending Dec. 31, 1884, in Hereford Rural Sanitary Authority

1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
323	336	287	274	364	286	239	301	296	236

Rate per 1,000 - 21·3 22·7 19·3 16·0 21·0 14·8 13·6 17·0 16·9 13·3

Of these 252 deaths no less than 103 occurred to those over 60 years of age in no way attributable to infectious disease.

Table showing the number of Deaths of Infants and those under five years from all causes, for the ten years ending Dec. 31, 1884.

1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
69	107	70	54	92	64	54	108	87	46

Rate per 1,000 ... 4·7 7·2 4·7 3·1 5·3 3·3 3·0 6·2 4·4 2·6

From this table I will proceed to analyse the Tables of Deaths and Sickness in the respective divisions or districts set out by order of the Local Government Board. Taking Table A first:—

Measles, from which is recorded no death.

Scarlet Fever was the cause of two deaths in your Burghill District, both being accounted for by germs existing from last year's epidemic.

Enteric Fever caused a death, accompanied with pneumonia. I cannot assign any local cause for the fever.

Diarrhœa and Dysentery next draw attention, Eleven deaths therefrom for the whole district, seven of which were amongst infants, connected with teething and convulsions, the remaining four being one in the asylum, one to an aged man who was suffering from another disease, and the balance to old people, none of which were attributable to insanitation.

Rheumatic Fever is stated as causing three deaths, two of which were accompanied with carditis, &c.

TABLE A.

TABLE of DEATHS during the year 1884, in the Four Divisions of the Rural Sanitary District of the Hereford Union, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities, and showing also the Population of such Localities, and the Births therein during the year.

[illegible]

TABLE B.
TABLE OF NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1884, in the Four Divisions of the Rural Sanitary District of the Hereford Union; classified according to Localities and Diseases.

The figures of the columns following column 12 will have been derived from the returns of the Poor Law Medical Officers, from the practice of public institutions in or near the Sanitary District, and from other medical practice.

The Officer of Health making this report is desired to state below the number of persons BELONGING to this division or district, who have during the year newly come under treatment for SMALL KINDS of disease and injury, and of whose cases he has had information.

580 among Out-door Paupers.

200 in Other Practice.*

* This refers to cases of sickness not included in the previous classes, if the Medical Officer of Health has information of such cases from other sources.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.		NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, IN PERSONS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT, DISTINGUISHING THOSE IN CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																				
		1	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Continued Fevers.				22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Other Diseases such as Chicken Pox, or Pneumonia, which the Medical Officer thinks well to record.	
				Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Group (not "epasmodic").	Whooping Cough.	Typhus.	Enteric	or Typhoid.	Other	Doubtful.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Cholera.	Rheumatic Fever.	Erysipelas.	Pyæmia.	Puerperal Fever.		Ague.
Dewchurch	... under 5	...	2	...	16	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Fownhope	... under 5	...	4	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Burghill	... under 5	...	...	...	6	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	3	2	...	...	1	...
County Asylum	... under 5	...	4	...	17	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	2	...	...	...	2	...
	... under 5	...	6	...	16	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	30	...	4	6	...	...	...	...
Totals	... under 5	...	6	39	...	...	1	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
	... under 5	...	10	44	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	45	...	10	8	...	3	...	...

Erysipelas caused two deaths, one of a senile character to a man aged 75, the other of a phlegmonous type.

Phthisis then returns eighteen deaths, being principally between 14 and 30 years of age, the chief causes being an hereditary and constitutional diathesis, and in two or three *climatic influences*.

Pneumonia. Bronchitis, &c., produce fifty-three deaths, and need no further comment.

Heart Disease shows a material advance in the total this year, being twenty-eight.

Accidents are slightly in excess of last year, being ten.

Other diseases must not be passed over, being the cause of 124 deaths:

Having fully accounted for all deaths as specified in Table A, to the best of my ability, I will refer to Table B, wherein new cases of sickness for the last twelve months in the respective four Divisions of your Union District are specified. In presenting you with this statement, you must bear in mind that I apply the same reservation as to the *accuracy of these* cases on Table B, as I have hitherto done; and until compulsory notification of infectious disease existing be enforced, so long will these Tables B be erroneous and misleading.

Measles are reported to me as being 16 cases.

Scarlet Fever still lingers amongst your union district; no less than 36 cases are reported in the Dewchurch district, nearly all of so mild a type as not to require the assistance of medical advice. Fownhope 14 cases of the same type, and Burghill 33 cases also; and until compulsory notification of infectious disease is enforced, so long shall I have to record so large a number.

Diphtheria, a single case only.

Croup caused four cases.

Whooping Cough, four cases.

Typhoid Fever was the cause of two cases, one I have already touched upon in Table A; the other was of a doubtful character, and no sanitary deficiencies existed.

Diarrhoea and Dysentery has been more prevalent in all your districts, mainly owing to the excessively hot summer, and partaking too freely of fruit and vegetables. I have notified to me 70 cases, but I am of opinion that many more existed from the same causes.

Rheumatic Fever was in excess this year, there having been 12 cases.

Erysipelas caused eight cases, two already mentioned on Table A; the balance very slight and amongst the aged.

Puerperal Fever showed in three cases, but no death therefrom.

This ends the analysis of Table B, and it only remains for me to remark that the house to house inspection is being carried out with the best results throughout your 42 parishes. I am convinced that it is mainly owing to such inspection that the great decrease of deaths is made undoubtedly visible. Thanking your able Chairman and Sanitary Committee for supporting me in adopting this inspection,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H VAVASOUR SANDFORD,

M.D., L.R.C.P., London Surgeon, &c.

The Hawthorns, Hereford,

January 18th, 1885.

Attached is the Report of the Inspector of Nuisance's work for the year 1884,

Offensive Privies, Ditches, and Pigstys	204
Accumulation of Stale Wash and Offensive Soil	68
Bad Privy Accommodation Improved ..	17
Defective Drainage	41
Cottages Repaired	11
Overcrowding Abated	15
Houses Disinfected by Carbolic Acid, &c	27

THE LEDBURY RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Population (Census 1881) 12,605.

Parishes, 22.

Area in Acres, 48,783.

December 31, 1884.

Gentlemen,—Pursuant to the order of the Local Government Board, London, dated March, 1880, I have pleasure in presenting you with my Eleventh Annual Report of the Sanitary condition of your Town and Union district. In doing so hitherto, it has been my custom to first ascertain, by returns furnished me, the increase or decrease of the rate of mortality, and proceed to inquire personally the cause and influences of either such increase or decrease. This scrutiny leads me to the conclusion that the rate of mortality for the year 1884 has decreased nearly 2 per 1,000 from all causes in your Union district.

The annexed table shows the number of Deaths annually for the last ten years, as also the variable rate per 1,000 :—

Table showing total number of Deaths from all causes for the ten years ending December, 31, 1884, and in the Workhouse.... ..											
1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884		
260	211	211	219	247	201	223	196	229	213		
Rate per 1,000 ...	19.8	16.1	16.1	16.5	18.7	15.9	17.6	15.0	17.9	16.1	

From this table I would draw your attention to the rate of mortality from all causes in infants and those under 5 years of age hereto attached :—

Table showing Deaths of Infants and those under five years from all causes, for the ten years ending Dec. 31, 1884, in the Ledbury Rural Sanitary Authority and Workhouse.

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
	60	56	42	38	56	44	45	43	59	46
Rate per 1,000	4.6	4.2	3.2	3.0	4.2	3.3	3.5	3.0	4.3	3.5

Having furnished you with these important facts, I now proceed to lay before you a table showing the number of Deaths in each year for the last ten years, ending December 31, 1884, from the eight chief zymotic diseases in the Rural Sanitary District of the Ledbury Union :—

The Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases in	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
Small Pox	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Measles	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	10	0	7	0	0	1	8	3	1
Diphtheria	1	5	2	3	5	2	8	3	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	4	1	0	3	0	1	0	10	1
Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Typhoid and Continued Fevers	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	0	4	2	1	0	1	2	3	4	4
	3	24	8	11	11	3	12	15	18	8

Having now gone through the Death rate, I beg to submit the births for the ten consecutive years :—

Table showing the number of Births for the last 10 years ending Dec. 31, 1884 in the Ledbury Rural Sanitary Authority and Workhouse

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
	336	341	319	224	318	335	305	356	341	326

TABLE A.

TABLE of DEATHS during the year 1884, in the Three Divisions of the Rural Sanitary District of the Ledbury Union, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities, and showing also the Population of such Localities, and the Births therein during the year.

[illegible]

TABLE B.

TABLE OF NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1884, in the Three Divisions of the Rural Sanitary District of the Ledbury Union; classified according to Localities and Diseases.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.		NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, IN PERSONS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT, DISTINGUISHING THOSE IN CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																	
NAMES OF LOCALITIES	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Continued Fevers.			23	24	25	26	27	28			
								Typhus.	Enteric	Typhoid	Doubtful.						Other Diseases such as Chicken Pox, or Pneumonia, which the Medical Officer thinks well to record.		
Ledbury	under 5	...	...	10	...	2	7	...	...	...	20	1	...	...	...	...	6	...	...
	5 upds.	...	...	15	1	1	1	...	...	...	24	4	3	...	2	...	5	...	...
Workhouse	under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...
	5 upds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Yarkhill	under 5	...	3	4	1	2	...	...	...	...	6	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
	5 upds.	...	2	6	...	1	2	...	2	4	10	3	3	...	...	...	3	...	...
	
	
Totals	under 5	...	3	14	1	4	7	...	...	...	26	2	...	...	...	...	13	...	...
	5 upds.	...	2	20	1	2	3	...	2	4	34	7	6	...	2	...	10	...	...

The figures of the columns following column 12 will have been derived from the returns of the Poor Law Medical Officers, from the practice of public institutions in or near the Sanitary District, and from other medical practice.

The Officer of Health making this report is desired to state below the number of persons belonging to this division or district, who have during the year newly come under treatment for ALL KINDS of disease and injury, and of whose cases he has had information.

72 in Workhouse.

1100 among Out-door Paupers.

100 in Other Practice.*

* This refers to cases of sickness not included in the previous classes, if the Medical Officer of Health has information of such cases from other sources.

Without further comment, I will proceed to analyze the Local Government Board's Tables A and B; but before doing so, permit me again to remark that I can only vouch for the accuracy of Table A. In Table B, the Table of cases of sickness, I have compiled the facts therein stated to the best of my ability.

SCARLET FEVER caused one death in your Yarkhill district, the result of direct contagium.

WHOOPING COUGH, Only one this year.

ENTERIC or TYPHOID caused two deaths in the Yarkhill District; the first case being of rather a doubtful nature, the man dying of hemorrhage. The second case was undoubtedly caused from the first, by the excreta of such first case passing into a ditch which emptied itself into a pond only a few feet from the well that supplied the second case with drinking water. On examination of such water it was found highly offensive, containing living germs, and corresponded with the filthy water in the pond. On further examination, a direct communication between the pond and the well was found, caused by floods washing away the soil underneath the surface. Added to these two deaths, a little girl residing with the second case had been drinking the same water, and a few days after the death of the second case, was also attacked with Enteric symptoms. She was at once removed to the other side of the county, and speedily recovered. I am pleased to state that as soon as these sanitary deficiencies were made known to the owner active steps were at once commenced to remedy the same. I would observe that I had no knowledge of either case until after death.

DIARRHŒA AND DYSENTERY are set down as causing seven deaths; but on inquiry I find that four of such were suffering from other diseases at the same time, and two accompanied with teething, &c.

RHEUMATIC FEVER caused one death—as also

ERYSIPELAS to an old man 74 years of age.

PHTHISIS caused sixteen deaths, all more or less emanating from a constitutional tendency.

PNEUMONIA, &c., is heavy this year. 16 cases therefrom.

HEART DISEASE also is in excess, there being 20 deaths.

INJURIES, from which ten deaths are recorded.

Other diseases show 127 cases.

I now refer to Table B., with the same reservation that I cannot vouch for it as being authentic.

MEASLES showed in two instances in the Yarkhill District.

SCARLET FEVER still lingers. From what I can glean, 34 cases in your Union District, all requiring little or no medical attendance.

DIPHTHERIA of a very mild type showed in two cases, one from impure water, the other from a sporadic origin.

ENTERIC AND TYPHOID FEVER was the cause of two cases already mentioned on Table A.

The four OTHER OR DOUBTFUL FEVERS spring from doubtful causes, with the exception of the child who drank the same water that killed the woman mentioned on Table A.

DIARRHŒA AND DYSENTERY caused about sixty cases; how many more I cannot vouch for, but believe it was somewhat general in all districts, remarkably mild.

ERYSIPELAS showed in six cases, no sanitary deficiencies being the cause.

Puerperal FEVER made its appearance in this Union District, as in all others in the county, this year. I am totally at a loss to account for these cases, as no connection whatever can be traced either by medical man, nurse, or any communication with either case.

This ends remarks on Table B.

In conclusion, I have only to call your attention, and that of your Towns Committee, to the desirability of your having

another tank made, in order to secure water sufficient to meet the demand of your town in case of drought, as has been felt this last summer.

Attached is the report of the Inspector of Nuisances for the year 1884.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD.

M.D., L.R.C.P., Lond., Surgeon. &c.

The Hawthorns. Hereford, January 20th, 1885.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

Houses limewashed and out of repair	...	...	30
Offensive Privies and Cesspools	...	...	20
Dilapidated Privies	...	...	10
Pigs kept near the house and filthy	...	...	10
Drains stopped up, &c.,	...	...	40
Wells out of order	...	...	10
Overcrowding	...	...	5
Total	...	...	135

THE LEOMINSTER RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY

Population (Census. 1881), 9,840.

Area in Acres, 64,316.

December 31, 1884.

Gentlemen,—Pursuant to the order of the Local Government Board of March, 1880. I now present you with my tenth annual report of the sanitary condition of your Union district. In carrying out their order, it is necessary to attach Table A of the deaths that have taken place in your district, the cause and respective ages. In Table B I have to give an account of all new cases of sickness that have occurred for the last twelve months.

SCARLET FEVER caused a death from direct infection.

CONTINUED FEVERS also one death of a doubtful type—no insanitation about the premises.

DIARRHŒA and DYSENTERY caused three deaths, two of which were to old people, the other to an infant while teething.

Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases in 1875 1876 1877 1878 1879 1880 1881 1882 1883 1884											
Small Pox	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	-	-	-	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Scarlet Fever	-	-	4	1	4	—	—	6	4	1	3
Diphtheria	-	-	-	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—
Whooping Cough	-	-	4	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	5
Typhus	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric, Typhoid, and Continued Fevers	-	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	-	5	2	1	5	3	4	—	1	2	3
		10	4	5	8	5	15	5	3	12	5

TABLE A.

TABLE of DEATHS during the year 1884, in the Three Divisions of the Rural Sanitary District of the Leominster Union, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities, and showing also the Population of such Localities, and the Births therein during the year.

[illegible]

TABLE B.

TABLE OF NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1884, in the Three Divisions of the Rural Sanitary District of the Leominster Union; classified according to Localities and Diseases.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

The figures of the columns following column 12 will have been derived from the returns of the Poor Law Medical Officers, from the practice of public institutions in or near the Sautary District, and from other medical practice.

The Officer of Health, making this report is desired to state below the number of persons belonging to this division or district, who have during the year newly come under treatment for ALL KINDS of disease and injury, and of whose cases he has had information.

300 among Out-door Paupers.

80 in Other Practice.*

* This refers to cases of sickness not included in the previous classes, if the Medical Officer of Health has information of such cases from other sources.

NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, IN PERSONS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT, DISTINGUISHING THEREIN CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.		Continued Fevers.	Typhus.	Typhoid.	Other or Doubtful.	Diarrhea and Dysentery.	Cholera.	Rheumatic Fever.	Erysipelas.	Pyæmia.	Puerperal Fever.	Ague.	Other Diseases such as Chicken Pox, or Pneumonia, which the Medical Officer thinks well to record.				
1	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Croup (not "spasmodic").	Whooping Cough.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Other or Doubtful.	Diarrhea and Dysentery.	Cholera.	Rheumatic Fever.	Erysipelas.	Pyæmia.	Puerperal Fever.	Ague.
Leominster	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
	under 5	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bodenham	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
	under 5	...	4	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kingsland	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	2
	under 5	...	4	7	...	...	2	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...

Totals	...	...	4	7	...	1	...	...	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	2
	under 5	...	11	15	...	...	2	...	...	1	18	...	...	...	...	...	...

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

The figures of the columns following column 12 will have been derived from the returns of the Poor Law Medical Officers, from the practice of public institutions in or near the Sanitary District, and from other medical practice.

The Officer of Health making this report is desired to state below the number of persons belonging to this division or district, who have during the year newly come under treatment for ALL kinds of disease and injury, and of whose cases he has had information.

300 among Out-door Paupers.

80 in Other Practice.*

* This refers to cases of sickness not included in the previous classes, if the Medical Officer of Health has information of such cases from other sources.

From this table refer to the next (the total from all causes).

Table showing total number of Deaths from all causes for the last Ten Years, ending Dec 31, 1884

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
	157	164	146	129	187	144	134	113	124	129

Rate per 1,000... 16.5 16.7 15.2 13.4 19.6 14.7 13.6 11.6 12.6 12.7

Again, by referring to the following Table of Infantile Mortality, it does not show any increase.

Table showing the number of Deaths from Infants and those under 5 years, for the Ten Years ending December 31, 1884 ...

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
	22	34	40	35	40	39	31	26	30	30

Rate per 1,000..... 2.2 3.4 4.0 3.5 4.3 4.3 3.1 2.5 3.0 3.0

These tables, with one showing the Births, must satisfy all that your Sanitary District is very fair.

Table showing number of Births for the last Ten Years, to Dec 31, 1884

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
	280	285	310	274	212	227	231	217	204	202

On Table B there is nothing to call for special attention. I have only to report upon routine work, done by the Inspector of Nuisances, whose returns are as follow:—

Houses limewashed and out of repair	...	4
Offensive Privies and Cesspools	...	11
Dilapidated Privies	...	5
Drains stopped up	...	7
Wells out of order	...	7
Overcrowding	...	2
Total	...	36

Concluding with these reports it only remains for me to add that the Fourth House-to-House Sanitary Survey is being carried out.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD,

M.D., L.R.C.P., Lond., Surgeon, &c.

The Hawthorns.

Hereford, January 1st. 1885.

THE BROMYARD RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Population (Census, 1881), 11,054.

Area in Acres, 61,659.

December 31, 1884.

Gentlemen,—Keeping in view the orders from the Local Government Board of March, 1880, I now (by such order) beg to present to you my Tenth Annual Report of the sanitary condition of your Town and Union district.

In doing so I have pleasure, as by perusing the annexed table it will be at once made plain that your district is assuming its usual high character for salubrity.

Table showing the number of Deaths in each year for the last nine years, ending Dec. 31, 1884, from the eight chief zymotic diseases in the Bromyard Rural Sanitary Authority.

The Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases in	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
Small Pox	0	Returns for this year.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0		1	0	0	8	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0		1	0	0	0	5	2	0	0
Diphtheria	0		0	0	0	0	2	0	4	1
Whooping Cough	1		0	2	2	0	2	1	3	0
Typhus Fever	2		0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Enteric, Typhoid, and Con- tinued Fevers	0		0	3	0	0	1	0	0	2
Diarrhea and Dysentery ...	7		2	1	1	6	2	1	2	1
	10	No	4	6	3	14	14	5	9	4

Having laid before you my calculations of the total deaths from zymotic disease, I now present you with a table showing

TABLE A.

TABLE of DEATHS during the year 1884, in the Four Divisions of the Rural Sanitary District of the Bromyard Union, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities, and showing also the Population of such Localities, and the Births therein during the year.

[illegible]

TABLE B.

TABLE OF NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1884, in the Four Divisions of the Rural Sanitary District of the Bromyard Union; classified according to Localities and Diseases.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.		NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, IN PERSONS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT, DISTINGUISHING THOSE IN CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																Other Diseases such as Chicken Pox, or Pneumonia, which the Medical Officer thinks well to record.
		Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Croup (not "spasmodic").	Whooping Cough.	Typhus.	Etiotic or Typhoid.	Other or Doubtful.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Cholera.	Rheumatic Fever.	Erysipelas.	Pyæmia.	Puerperal Fever.	Ague.	
1	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
Bromyard	under 5	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bishop's Frome...	5 upds.	...	4	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Brockhampton ..	5 upds.	3	2	6	3	...	...	...	1	2	9	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
Workhouse	5 upds.	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Other Practice ...	5 upds.	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	under 5	3	12	28	3	...	...	...	3	3	15	...	3	2	...	3	...	4
	5 upds.	...	6	18	3	...	...	...	1	3	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

The figures of the columns following column 12 will have been derived from the returns of the Poor Law Medical Officers, from the practice of public institutions in or near the Sanitary District, and from other medical practice.

The Officer of Health making this report is desired to state below the number of persons belonging to this division or district, who have during the year newly come under treatment for ALL KINDS of disease and injury, and of whose cases he has had information.

60 in Workhouse and Workhouse Infirmary.

380 among Out-door Paupers.

70 in Other Practice.*

* This refers to cases of sickness not included in the previous classes, if the Medical Officer of Health has information of such cases from other sources.

total deaths in each year for the last 10 years, less for the year 1876 :—

Table showing total number of Deaths from all causes in the ten years ending Dec. 31, 1884, including the Workhouse

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
	206	*	160	190	234	219	184	175	170	162
Rate per 1,000	17.2		13.4	15.7	19.3	18.1	16.6	15.2	15.3	14.0

* No Returns.

I also present you with a Table of Infantile Mortality, and those under five years, showing a decrease therein for the last year :—

Table showing number of Deaths of infants and those under 5 years from all causes for the ten years ending December 31, 1884

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
	38	*	25	50	56	62	46	25	48	36
Rate per 1,000 ..	3.1		2.0	4.1	4.6	5.1	4.1	4.5	4.2	3.1

* No Returns

Having done this I proceed to lay before you the Births for the last eight years, none having been furnished me for the years 1875-76.

Table showing number of Births for the last eight years ending December 31, 1884

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
	0	*	300	330	406	298	310	317	295	309

* No Returns

These most satisfactory statements before you, I will now proceed to analyse Table A., or cause of death, required by the Local Government Board's orders.

Diphtheria, from which one death is recorded, the cause undoubtedly being from sewage polluted water. This case took place at the Bishop Froome Schools; these Schools I advised being closed for a month, as in order to remedy considerable insanitation about the place. Three other mild cases were traced to these defects.

Enteric and Typhoid: One death in the Brockhampton District, no cause could be assigned.

Other or Doubtful Fevers is set down as causing one death, in the Bishop Froome District, to an illegitimate infant six months old out at nurse. The cottage where the child died was filthy, and, taking into consideration the miserable state the people were in, I am inclined to think privation was more the cause of death.

Puerperal Fever shows, causing two deaths after labour, no local insanitation could be traced to account for it.

Phthisis is set down to eight deaths, most of them emanating from hereditary influences.

Pulmonary Diseases are about the same.

Heart Diseases are in excess this year.

Injuries are set down to three only this year.

Other Diseases finish with a total of 99 on Table A.

I now proceed to look over Table B., or table of sickness.

Small Pox has threatened us with an epidemic in the Bishop Froome District, having had it imported from Bilston, in Staffordshire, by a young married woman who came to *pick hops* during the season, and to reside with her sister, a married woman (who was expecting to be confined every day). She had only arrived three days when she fell ill with this disease, and had so severe an attack that it was found necessary to procure a nurse for her; the nurse had not been in the house a week before she contracted the disease also, so severely that her life was despaired of, and to make matters worse the man also fell ill with the same. Under these trying circumstances I (under the Local Government Board's recommendation of December, 1876) took the adjoining cottage, which was under the same roof, and removed the poor woman, who was expecting to be confined, into it, and her five children, and obtained the services of another nurse to wait upon them. The result was no other ease showed, and all recovered. I must here thank your Board for allowing the expenses attached to all this. I would observe also, that three beds were burnt, and thorough disinfection of each house and everything in it that might hold infection. I would also inform the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD that these three adult cases had been vaccinated during infancy, but seeing one was 24 (the first), the nurse 54, who had it fearfully, and the man 32 years of age, I am of opinion had they been re-vaccinated the attack would have been much lighter. Before leaving this disease I would further inform the Local Government Board that vaccination was carried out, as also *re-vaccination*, to those who requested it, throughout the district, and handbills posted, warning people. &c., &c., as recommended by their orders.

Measles have shown in all your districts.

Scarlet Fever has been on the increase in all districts.

Diphtheria showed in four cases, all of a mild type and already mentioned.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever, as has been remarked upon on Table A., was in the Bishop Froome District; two very mild cases undoubtedly owing to the gases from a gorged cesspool to a public girls' school at Cradley, and two more cases of a *doubtful type*, also very mild, emanating from the same source.

Diarrhœa and Dysentery was slightly on the increase, but not more than might have been expected from the intense heat.

Rheumatic Fever: I have to mention three cases.

Erysipelas is mentioned to me to two old people.

Puerperal Fever was in excess, why? I cannot account for; no communication took place between either case.

It only remains for me to state that the Inspector of Nuisances' work for the last twelve months is as follows:—

Dilapidated Houses Repaired, &c.	-	-	-	27
New Privies	-	-	-	10
Removal of Offal, &c., &c.	-	-	-	38
Defective Drains put right	-	-	-	10
Disinfection of Houses where Scarlet Fever	}			2
Smallpox		-	-	
Nuisances on Hand	-	-	-	10
				—
				97

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD,

M.D., L.R.C.P., Lond., Surgeon, &c.

The Hawthorns, Hereford,
January 1st, 1885.

WEOBLEY RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Population (Census, 1881), 8,178.

Area in Acres, 48,959.

December 31, 1884.

Gentlemen,—The same order from the Local Government Board, as I have before mentioned, will apply also to your Sanitary Authority, and for such purpose Tables A and B have to be filled up by me, but before doing so I would observe that your total deaths from all causes I am pleased to say amount to 124 against 153 for the last year, giving a death-rate of 15·1 per 1,000 as shown by the following :—

Table showing total number of Deaths from all causes for the ten years ending December 31, 1884, including those in the Workhouse ..

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
	150	123	113	145	170	153	118	164	153	124
Rate per 1,000	16·4	13·6	12·5	16·0	17·7	16·9	14·4	17·1	16·9	15·1

And by perusing the following Table showing the number of Deaths in each year for the last ten years ending December 31, 1884, from the eight chief zymotic diseases :—

Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases in	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	5	5	—	3	6	—	16	7	3
Diphtheria	1	—	—	8	5	7	1	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric, Typhoid, and Continued Fevers	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	1	3	1	2	1	4	2	2	2	—
	4	9	6	11	9	18	3	33	9	4

Thus showing a decrease of 5 Deaths from Zymotic Diseases alone this year.

TABLE B.

TABLE OF NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1884, in the Three Divisions of the Rural Sanitary District of the Weobley Union; classified according to Localities and Diseases.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

The figures of the columns following column 12 will have been derived from the returns of the Poor Law Medical Officers, from the practice of public institutions in or near the Sanitary District, and from other medical practice.

The Officer of Health, making this report is desired to state how the number of persons belonging to this division or district, who have during the year newly come under treatment for ALL KINDS of disease and injury, and of whose cases he has had information.

60 in Workhouse

300 among Out-door Paupers.

90 in Other Practice.*

* This refers to cases of sickness not included in the previous classes, if the Medical Officer of Health has information of such cases from other sources.

NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, IN PERSONS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT, DISTINGUISHING THOSE IN CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																				
NAMES OF LOCALITIES.		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Continued Fevers.				22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Other Diseases such as Chicken Pox, or Pneumonia, which the Medical Officer thinks well to record.
1			Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Group (not "spasmodic").	Whooping Cough.	Typhus.	Euterie or Typhoid.	Other or Doubtful.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Cholera.	Rheumatic Fever.	Erysipelas.	Pyæmia.	Putrefactive Fever.	Ague.		
Weobley ...	...	under 5	...	4	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Workhouse ...	...	5 upds.	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	4
Dilwyn ...	...	5 upds.	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Practice ...	...	5 upds.	...	8	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	6	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...
		5 upds.	...	3	6	...	...	2	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		under 5	...	4	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		5 upds.	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		5 upds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	...	under 5	...	9	3	...	2	...	...	1	...	15	...	3	...	...	...	4	...	4
		5 upds.	...	18	10	1	...	5	...	...	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

The figures of the columns following column 12 will have been derived from the returns of the Poor Law Medical Officers, from the practice of public institutions in or near the Sanitary District, and from other medical practice.

The Officer of Health making this report is desired to state below the number of persons belonging to this division or district, who have during the year newly come under treatment for ALL KINDS of disease and injury, and of whose cases he has had information.

60 in Workhouse

300 among Out-door Paupers.

90 in Other Practice.*

* This refers to cases of sickness not included in the previous classes, if the Medical Officer of Health has information of such cases from other sources.

Table showing number of
Deaths of Infants and those
under five years of age,
from all causes for the ten
years ending Dec., 1884.

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
	47	34	21	28	42	41	21	45	45	24
Rate per 1,000	- 5.0	3.7	2.3	3.0	4.5	4.4	2.4	4.7	4.7	2.9

From this I now produce Table of Births for the last ten years :—

Table showing the number
of Births for the ten years,
ending December 31, 1884.

1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
220	229	223	224	266	230	210	217	208	233

Giving an increase of 25 births this year.

This evidence before you I will, without further remark, proceed to investigate, and, as far as practicable, account for such deaths on Table A, taking first

Measles, from which no death is recorded.

Scarlet Fever caused three deaths, two of which died virtually from the effects of such fever six weeks after having suffered from it. All can be traced to infection from last year's epidemic.

Diphtheria.—One death is recorded to a child 10 years of age in the Workhouse, the cause sporadic, I believe. Every precaution was observed by the Master and Matron ; strict isolation and disinfection carried out after death.

Puerperal fever is assigned as causing two deaths. No local cause can be traced, nor was there any communication from one woman to the other.

Phthisis caused eight deaths, an hereditary predisposition being the cause.

Pneumonia, Pleurisy, and Bronchitis caused 19 deaths.

Heart Disease is set down as causing not less than 22 deaths.

Injuries, two deaths.

Other Diseases came boldly to the front, with 77 deaths. Thus ends the analysis of Table A.

Table B shows 27 cases of *Measles* in four different districts, eight being in the Workhouse, the Master and Matron of which were most assiduous in stamping this infectious disease out, and every sanitary precaution adopted.

Scarlet Fever still exists, there having been reported to me

13 cases in your two districts, nearly all traceable to former cases

Group is reported in two cases.

Whooping Cough five cases.

Typhoid Fever is returned to me as causing one case in the Weobley district, bad water being undoubtedly the cause.

Diarrhea and Dysentery are in excess this year, but all of a mild type and mainly owing to the intense heat experienced during the summer months.

Rheumatic Fever is set down as causing three cases.

Puerperal Fever has no less than four cases in your Union district. In neither was there any communication from one case to the other, or sufficient insanitation about the houses to account for them.

Diphtheria shows a case as reported upon in Table A.

In commencing to examine Table B (cases of Sickness), I have compiled this Table to the best of my ability; but I must here enter my same precaution, that I cannot vouch for the following being the total number of cases.

It only remains for me to add the Inspector's routine work, which in the Weobley district is as follows:—

Removal of General Nuisances ...	...	...	40
Overcrowding done away ...	...	...	2
Houses condemned as unfit ...	...	...	8
			—
			50

From the Inspector of Nuisances of the Dilwyn District I have returned as follows:—

Drains New and Repaired	} 72
Pigstyes removed ...	...	...
Privies repaired and altered ...	...	...
Pumps repaired ...	...	...

And to remark that I think it desirable that another house to house inspection should be made as early as possible this spring, being convinced that it is the only means of checking and preventing disease.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD,

M.D., L.R.C.P., Lond. Surgeon, &c.

The Hawthorns, Hereford,

January 21st, 1885.

SANITARY HINTS.

PURE DRINKING WATER.—Avoid, as far as you can, every water which can even be *suspected* of contamination with the filth from sewers, house drains, privies, cesspools, and the like. See that cisterns and water butts are clean, and especially that the overflow pipes do not open direct into any drain. Water should be clear, colourless, and without smell. Water can only be really tested by a difficult and careful analysis. Drinking-water is the better for being filtered. A costless filter may be thus made:—Take a flower-pot and plug the hole, not too tightly, with a piece of sponge; add a layer of powdered animal charcoal about one inch thick, then the same quantity of clean sand, and on that some coarse gravel. The charcoal should be occasionally rebaked or washed with Condyl's Fluid; in epidemics of typhoid fever or cholera, the water should be boiled before filtration.

DRAINS, CLOSETS, &c.—Flush and, if possible, scrub and cleanse once daily with plenty of water, containing some disinfectant, as crude sulphate of iron, chloride of zinc, carbolic acid, or Cooper's Patent Salts. See that the traps are well charged with water, that they do not allow bad smells to escape in the house, and that the main house drain is ventilated by the rain water pipe, by charcoal air filters, or otherwise. The pan of every W.C. ought to have a tube or shaft attached to the soil pipe just below the trap of the pan; this tube ought to be carried rather above the roof or outside the house, not near any window or water cistern. A two-inch zinc pipe will answer every requirement to allow the gases to pass up such tube that may generate or be driven in the soil pipe from a main sewer or cesspool that the soil empties into; thus preventing any party using such W.C. from inhaling and being poisoned by such gas when the pan has been used and the handle is being pulled up for flushing, cleansing, and emptying.

ASH and PRIVY PITS.—Cover, so as to keep them dry, well drained, thoroughly spread over with ashes or dry earth, frequently emptied, sprinkle with a disinfecting powder—McDougall's or Cooper's—and be careful that no slops are thrown in. Decaying animal and vegetable refuse are sources of danger, and should be buried or dug into the earth away from houses.

Remove all pigs, poultry and rabbits, some distance from living rooms.

VENTILATION.—Keep rooms and passages sweet by opening doors and windows for admission of air. Fires greatly promote ventilation. Overcrowding is exceedingly dangerous. Whenever possible, 500 cubic feet of air breathing space should be allowed to each individual in any sitting-room, bedroom, or work-room. Gas lights contaminate the air very rapidly. Pure air is less dependent on cubic space than on efficient ventilation, which may be secured by the following simple and economical method:—Raise the lower sash of the window two or three inches, and fill in the opening underneath the bottom rail with a piece of wood; this leaves a corresponding space between the meeting rails in the middle of the window, through which a current of air enters and is directed towards the ceiling, whence it should escape by a valvular opening. The fewer persons and things in a sick room the better. Beds should be freely exposed to the air during the day, and soiled linen should not be kept waiting for washing in unventilated closets.

CLOTHING. FOOD, &c.—While warmth is kept up, transpiration should be free; in summer and autumn a broad flannel bandage should be worn round the abdomen, and the linen should be constantly changed. The food should be plain, fresh, wholesome, and sufficient; avoiding intemperance in both eating and drinking. Bodily weakness favours cholera, typhus, typhoid, and other fever,—therefore, avoid exhaustion, over-fatigue, and fear as much as possible. Milk, rice, meat, soups, potatoes, beans, peameal, bacon, entire wheaten bread and cheese are the cheapest nourishing articles of food. One of the most frequent causes of the early death of young children is improper feeding. The proper food of children is breast milk. When the mother and the child are both healthy no other food is required for the first six months. When the child is first born no food is required, and the practice of giving gruel, butter, honey, and castor oil to new-born babes is prejudicial to their health. When the mother has a deficiency of milk, cow's milk or Swiss milk is the best substitute. It should be given with a third of warm water and a little sugar. For the first six weeks the child should be suckled every two hours in the day and every three or four hours at night. Gradually as it gets older the intervals of feeding may be prolonged. Children should not be fed to keep them quiet but at regular intervals. Mothers should never fall asleep when sucking their babes, as this is one of the most frequent causes of suffocation in bed. A child should not be weaned suddenly, but by degrees, and ought not to have the breast after the ninth month. When the child has cut its front teeth it

may have some light food, such as bread, baked finely ground wheaten flour, or milk biscuits, added to its milk, or "Liebig's Food;" and once a day meat broth or beef tea, with bread or biscuits soaked in it; or the yolk of an egg lightly boiled; when it is a year and a half old, some fine chopped meat—but milk should form the principal part of its food. Solid meat and potatoes, fat pork and fish, which form the food of grown-up people, should on no account be given to children.

I recommend for food the nutritive properties of rice.—The increase in the consumption of rice has lately attracted the attention of several men of science in Germany, and, amongst other investigations, an attempt has been made by Professor Voit to discover the relative capacity which various forms of nourishment possess of being incorporated into the system. He has drawn up the following table of the percentage which remains in the body, and of that which leaves it:—

		Percentage incorporated		Percentage which is not retained
Meat	...	96·7	...	3·3
Rice	...	96·1	...	3·9
Eggs	...	94·8	...	5·2
White bread	...	94·4	...	5·6
Maize	...	93·3	...	6·7
Potatoes	...	90·7	...	9·3
Milk	...	88·9	...	11·1
Black bread	...	88·5	...	11·5

According to these results (the *Bremer Handelsblatt* remarks) meat and rice leave the smallest amount of residuum, and occasion the smallest excessive exertion to the digestion, and, in fact, introduce the minimum quantity of ballast into the human frame. Dr. König, of Münster, considers that the fact of large masses of population living on rice is easily accounted for, and in summing up the information collected upon the subject, Professor Voit remarks that potatoes, when consumed in excessive quantity, fail to nourish the frame effectively, make the blood watery, and render the muscles weak. Apart from the subject dealt with in the table drawn up by Professor Voit, the question of the relative nutritive value of rice and potatoes has been investigated by Dr. König, who is of opinion that if similar quantities of both articles are compared, the former possesses four times the value of the latter in really nutritive properties. It is also remarked that the introduction of rice as a substitute for potatoes is facilitated by the fact that no such variation takes place in its quality as in the case with the potato, which is liable to be materially influenced by the effects of unfavourable weather.

THE SICK ROOM.—Keep sweet by a small fire and a plentiful supply of fresh air, as above described. Remove bed-curtains, window-hangings, and carpets. Sweep rooms daily, and let the floor be frequently rubbed with a damp cloth, or dry rubbed, and, when necessary, chloride of lime or acetic acid sprinkled from time to time on the floor. Keep within reach of the patient a basin charged with disinfectant for him to spit into; and have close at hand a tub or pail of diluted disinfecting fluid, into which should be immediately thrown any article of clothing removed from the patient. Instead of a pocket handkerchief use small pieces of rag, to be burnt immediately after use. A piece of mackintosh sheeting placed beneath the sheet or blanket of a bed prevents discharge soaking through. A tea-cup full of green copperas solution, 2lbs. to a gallon, put into a night pan before it is used by the patient renders the discharge harmful. Matters discharged from the body should be received in a vessel containing active disinfectants, as about half a pint of either of the following solutions, namely:—Of 2lbs. of sulphate of iron in a gallon of water; one quart of chloride of zinc to three quarts of water; four fluid ounces of carbolic acid (Calvert's No. 5) to a gallon of water. Glasses, cups, and other utensils of the sick room should be cleansed before they are used by other persons. Hang, outside door of room, a sheet or old counterpane, and keep it moistened with some disinfecting solution.

INFECTED CLOTHING AND BEDDING.—Soiled linen, bedding, and such woollen articles as admit of washing, on being removed from the patient should be plunged into boiling water before they are taken from the room, and, in addition, for an hour or two, into a tub of solution of four fluid ounces of carbolic acid (Calvert's No. 5) to a gallon of water: after this they can be boiled and washed. Cloth clothes, mattresses, beds, pillows, &c. (in the absence of a proper public disinfecting establishment, which should be so constructed that its temperature can be well regulated and maintained at from 240 deg. to 250 deg. Fahr. for four or five hours), should be disinfected by smoking with brimstone exposure in the open air, to the sun, if possible, or, if raining, in front of a large fire. Washing and lime-whiting of premises should be attended to periodically.

THE PATIENT.—Separate the sick person from the healthy as soon as possible. In cases of scarlet fever, on the seventh and eighth days, anoint the surface of the body twice a day with camphorated lard or palm oil, or wash with diluted Condy's Liquid. When the patient is sufficiently strong let him take a warm bath, and afterwards be well washed with carbolic acid-soap and water. During a week or ten days from this time he may be kept apart, repeating every two or three days the disinfecting ablutions; after which he can, with safety, mix again with his family

Scarlet Fever and Small Pox seldom spread beyond the sick-room when separation and disinfection have been properly used. Whenever children have sore throats or an eruption on the skin, they should be separated from the rest of the family until they have had medical advice or those symptoms have disappeared. Measles and Whooping-cough are contagious, and cases should be more carefully isolated and nursed than is usually done. In the event of death early burial is very desirable. Powdered charcoal, 2 lbs., Cooper's Patent Salts, or good Carbolate Powder, or sawdust nearly saturated with a solution of chloride or sulphate of zinc, placed in the coffin retards decomposition and putrefaction, or takes away offensive smells by absorbing noxious gases.

NURSES AND ATTENDANTS — Woollen dresses are to be avoided, and preference given to washing materials. Prevent contact, as much as possible, between attendants and inmates of the house. After handling the sick or things connected with them, let the nurse be careful immediately to wash her hands in diluted Condyl's liquid, or with carbolic acid-soap.

DISINFECTANTS.—For *Nuisance Prevention*, as detected by the nose test, those most generally used are Chloride of Lime, Cooper's Salts, Condyl's Fluid, Burnett's Liquid, Chloralum, Carbolic Acid, and its compounds. Chloride of Lime and Chlorine require care and experience in management; when used too freely in inhabited rooms, they give rise to irritation of the lungs and air passages. Burnett's Fluid and Carbolic Acid are most efficacious but are poisonous, and the latter possesses a very strong smell, which to many persons is extremely offensive. Ten pounds of sulphate of iron, five gallons of water, and half a pint of common carbolic acid form a good and cheap disinfectant for drain. Iodine, volatilized on a heated surface, is an excellent disinfectant, but is expensive. Carbolic Acid, Chlorozone, or Condyl's Liquid improve the air when diffused by means of a large brush, a scent spray or the hydronette syringe with rose. For *Infection Prevention*,—should be thorough—not diluted, applied in considerable strength; while the room is occupied by the living it is impossible to use volatile or aerial disinfectants in such quantity as to be of real service. When the room is vacated, to disinfect thoroughly, close the windows, stop up the chimney and every aperture and outlet from the room, and use sulphur in the proportion of $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. for every 100 cubic feet of space. The sulphur may be safely burnt in a shallow pipkin or coarse earthenware saucer containing some live coals or coke; the saucer should be supported on a pair of tongs laid across a pail of water, so that in case of accident the burning sulphur may fall into the water and do no injury. The room should be closed for twelve hours—then the wall papers should be removed, stripped off, and burnt; the walls, ceiling, floor, painted parts of the room and articles of furniture washed with

solution of a carbolic acid, and the ceilings and walls limewashed, the room should be unoccupied and freely open to the external air for a fortnight, if possible, for plenty of fresh air is the truest, best, and cheapest disinfectant.

VACCINATION.—Every child should be vaccinated before the third month ; if delayed beyond that period, it may increase the irritation of teething. Skin rashes are often erroneously said to be caused by vaccination. All persons should be re-vaccinated after eight years of age,—and when Small Pox prevails in a family or neighbourhood.

Clergymen, medical practitioners, Scripture readers, and other persons interested in Sanitary reform living in the district, are invited to inform the Medical Officer of Health, and the Sanitary Inspectors, of any nuisances which they discover in their neighbourhood—such communications to be considered strictly confidential. Every ratepayer has a right of complaint, and it is only by such co-operation that Sanitary Officers have a power of remedying nuisances and of checking the ravages of epidemic disease